

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 4-18, 20, and 22, without prejudice of disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A speech recognition support method applied to a system to retrieve a map in response to a user's input speech, comprising the steps of:
 - assigning a recognition result to the user's input speech;
 - calculating, if the recognition result of the user's input speech represents a point on the map, a distance between the point and a base point on the map;
 - deciding whether the distance is above a threshold; and
 - outputting, if the distance is above the threshold, an inquiry to confirm whether the recognition result is correct.
2. (Original) The speech recognition support method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
 - if the distance is not above the threshold,
 - outputting the recognition result without the inquiry.

3. (Original) The speech recognition support method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

if the recognition result does not represent a point on the map,
previously determining to output the recognition result with the inquiry or without the
inquiry.

4. - 18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) A speech recognition support apparatus for retrieving a map in response to a user's input speech, comprising:

a speech recognition unit configured to assign a recognition result to the user's input speech;

a distance decision unit configured to calculate a distance between a point of the recognition result and a

base point on the map if the recognition result represents a point on the map, and to decide whether the distance is above a threshold; and

a response generation unit configured to generate an inquiry to confirm whether the recognition result is correct if the distance is above the threshold.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) A computer readable memory containing computer readable instructions in a system to retrieve a map in response to a user's input speech, comprising:

instruction means for causing a computer to assign a recognition result to the user's input speech;

instruction means for causing a computer to calculate, if the recognition result of the user's input speech represents a point on the map, a distance between the point and a base point on the map;

instruction means for causing a computer to decide whether the distance is above a threshold; and

instruction means for causing a computer to output, if the distance is above the threshold, an inquiry to confirm whether the recognition result is correct.

22. (Canceled)

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REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants amend the Specification to add a reference to Application No. 09/606,150 and JP 11-185859, for which benefit of priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 35 U.S.C. § 119, respectively, and cancel claims 4-18, 20, and 22, without prejudice of disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Applicants also file herewith an English translation of JP 11-185859, along with a signed statement of the translator, certifying that the translation is accurate.

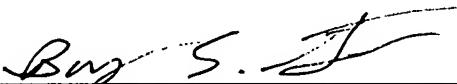
Prompt and favorable examination of this application is earnestly requested.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 20, 2003

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